

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5752

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE CANDIDACY FOR IAEA PRESIDENCY

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED DFA NOTE 74-2072 URGING US SUPPORT OF PHILIPPINE CANDIDACY FOR IAEA PRESIDENCY WHICH, ACCORDING TO PHILIPPINES, IS RESERVED THIS YEAR FOR "FAR EAST" CANDIDATE. PHILIPPINE CANDIDATE IS RETIRED GENERAL FLORENCIO MEDINA, CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND PRINCIPAL SCIENCE BUREAUCRAT IN PHILIPPINES.

2. DFA NOTE STRESSES THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME IT IS ADVANCING CANDIDATE FOR IAEA PRESIDENCY AND GOES ON TO OFFER FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATION FOR US SUPPORT OF PHILIPPINE CANDIDACY:

QUOTE: TO SUPPORT OUR DESIRE TO OCCUPY THE PRESIDENCY, WE MAY SAY THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY. THIS IS SHOWN BY ITS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS AND BY THE CONSTRUCTIVE STAND OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION AT THE

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IAEA. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT THE

PHILIPPINES MADE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN THE DRAFTING AND APPROVAL OF THE NEW ARTICLE VI OF THE IAEA STATUTE WHICH INCREASED THE REPRESENTATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

SHOULD THE PHILIPPINES BE ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE, IT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE HONORABLE FLORENCIO MEDINA, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, WHOSE PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORK OF THE AGENCY, AS INDICATED IN THE ATTACHED CURRICULUM VITAE, WILL ENABLE HIM TO CONDUCT WITH SKILL AND EXPERTISE THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE. END QUOTE.

3. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR SHAHANI, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, DFA, PHILIPPINES HAS OBTAINED ENDORSEMENT OF JAPAN AND KOREA FOR GENERAL MEDINA'S CANDIDACY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY REARDS GENERAL MEDINA AS COMPETENT BUREAUCRAT, EASY TO COMMUNICATE WITH, GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUES, AND WELL TRAVELED IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE CIRCLES. UNLESS DEPT HAS BETTER CANDIDATE, WE RECOMMEND IT SUPPORT MEDINA. SINCE THIS IS LATE IN DAY TO ADVANCE CANDIDACY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN IAEA RACE AND ANY HELPFUL TIPS WE MIGHT PASS TO GOP SHOULD DEPT FAVOR MEDINA CANDIDACY.
SULLIVAN

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